

WHITCHURCH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Full Council Meeting held in the Town Hall
on Monday 1st March 2010 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Cllr. V. Bradbury	Cllr. J. Clark	Cllr. Mrs. J. Day
Cllr. M. Fitzgerald	Cllr. B. Jackman	Cllr. H. James
Cllr. P. McGarvey	Cllr. D. Titcomb	Cllr. J. Wall
Mrs. C. Burt, Clerk	Mrs. P. Cooper, Asst. Clerk	
P.c. P. Deery	CDO Lucy Mackmim	4 Members of Public
2 Members of Press		

1. Apologies:

Cllr. S. Robbins	Cllr. P. Williams	Cllr. J. Markham
Cllr. K. Watts		

2. The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of 1st February 2010 were agreed and signed. Proposed Cllr. V. Bradbury. Seconded: Cllr. B. Jackman.

3. Chairman's Report:

Cllr. V. Bradbury gave his report. See Attachment A.

Councillors were concerned to hear of South West Trains' proposals to reduce the hours the Station Ticket Office would be at weekends and weekday evenings. Councillors considered that the less habitual travellers, or the visual impaired could well experience difficulties trying to buy tickets from a machine, which does not accept travel tokens, or facilitate taking advantage of special offers. The Clerk was asked to write to South West Trains voicing Town Council's concerns.

Nominations for Mayor and Deputy Mayor Elect to be considered at next Full Council Meeting.

4. Borough and County Councillors' Reports:

The Clerk read out a report on behalf of Cllr. K. Watts. See attachment B.

Councillors have not seen the application for expansion of the Vitacress premises, so are unable to comment at present.

Apologies and report from Cllr. T. Thacker were received too late for the meeting. Report will be e-mailed to all Councillors.

5. Police Report:

Pc. Paula Deery reported on the crime figures 1/02/10 to 1/03/10 – 6 in total. 4 domestic related incidents; 1 public order incident involving two school pupils, and 1 incident of shoplifting from the Chemist.

The Police assisted in running a Community Football Tournament at Testbourne Community School on Wednesday 17th February 2010 where 53 children attended.

Friday night patrols continue with the support of Community Safety Patrol Officers, who started two weeks ago. Officers attended the Skate Board Park and confiscated some alcohol.

Your Voice Counts Leaflets – P.c. Deery is distributing leaflets in Whitchurch, St. Mary Bourne and Hurstbourne Priors. There is a box in the Town Hall entrance Hall for depositing completed forms.

Chatter Lane – P.c. Deery is still waiting for a reply from B.D.B.C. regards planting of thorny bushes along the bank in Chatter Lane, near the street lamp, to dissuade young people from gathering there.

Dog Fouling – Last week P.c. Deery and the Clerk met with Blanche Miles from the Borough Council to discuss Dog Control Orders. This is ongoing.

The next beat surgery is on the 9th March 2010 in the Town Hall from 3.00 to 4.00 p.m.

6. Introduction to Community Development Officer:

The Chairman welcomed Community Development Officer Lucy Mackmin to the meeting, who explained her role as a Community Development Officer, which is to help set up new, or support existing, Community Organisations. This involves work with the Whitchurch Youth Club, and Lucy will be meeting with Helena Dolphin Leader of the 14+ age group Youth Club regarding the Borough's Summer Streets Programme. Lucy is one of a team of six, and is responsible for a large area covering Winklebury, Rooksdown, Kingsclere and Whitchurch.

8. Development Committee:

(i) Chairman's Report.

Cllr. J. Clark informed Councillors that he had attended a reception to mark the refurbishment of the Newbury Building Society on behalf of the Mayor.

Town Council should also be receiving a letter from the Leader of Hampshire County Council regarding funding for extra salt bins. The Clerk has already applied and is hopeful Whitchurch will get some if not all of the bins requested.

Test Valley Borough Council propose to remove the 6 disabled parking spaces in Andover High Street.

(ii) Correspondence.

- (a) Acknowledgement from the Leader of Hampshire County Council of Clerks request for additional Salt Bins.
- (b) H.C.C. - e-mail from Simon Found, thanking The Clerk for the Street Audit. He will obtain costings and liaise with Town Council regarding priority of works that can be achieved currently.
- (c) Graham Burgess – Tree Care Group: Mr. Burgess proposes to “set up a group of volunteers to apply best professional skills and access comprehensive opinion in respect of the value of trees in our Town”. He quoted the incident where a Borough Tree Officer changed his opinion due to the number of objections received. Mr. Burgess also requested a letter of support from Town Council. Cllr. V. Bradbury proposed that Council support the setting up of the group. Seconded: Cllr. D. Titcomb. All in agreement.

7. Designs for Decorated Bollards:

Mr. J. Buckley introduced the artist (recommended by B.D.B.C.) whose designs will be used on the painted bollards. It is hoped that some of the bollards will be sponsored by local businesses. There are 20 bollards to be painted over the period of a year. The bollards by the two Zebra crossings will be left black for safety reasons, on the recommendation of the Highway Authority. Councillors were shown some of the designs, pertinent to the history of Whitchurch eg. Riots, Silk Rivers, Watership Down. Councillors considered the designs to be very good. Cllr. B. Jackman proposed that Town Council approve the designs. Seconded: Cllr. J. Wall. One against. All others in agreement. Motion carried. The bollards will be painted on site, and the paint should last for five years. Maintenance will continue to be with H.C.C. Damage to the decoration occurring within the contract period can be retouched. The bollards will be replaced with standard black, if seriously damaged, or the funding runs out.

9. Leisure & Environment:

(i) Chairman's Report.

Cllr. B. Jackman informed Councillors that the quotes for the re-erection of the laid-down memorials in the Cemetery had been received from the Stone Mason. Not all the memorials will be re-erected. Councillors will be discussing access to dogs on the Recreation Grounds at the next Leisure and Environment Committee meeting. All Councillors are invited to attend or relay their comments to Cllr. Jackman.

(ii) Correspondence.

(a) H.C.C. – Southern Electric will be repairing the lights in the Winchester Recreation Ground and the recently re-instated light in Alliston Way in the next three days. They have been out since January,

(b) The moles have been eradicated in the Cemetery, but there is still a problem in the Winchester Road Recreation Grounds.

10. Association of Parish & Town Councils' Report:

Cllr. P. McGarvey reported on the February 25th meeting of the Basingstoke District Association of Parish and Town Councils, which was attended by the Head of the Older People's Wellbeing Team from Hampshire, who gave a presentation on the team's work.

Membership of NALC (National Association of Local Councils) – HALC (Hampshire Association of Local Councils) has been showing discontent with NALC, and is proposing to break away from it. Cllr. McGarvey reported that the general feeling of the meeting was that Councils should remain members of NALC and support HALC in lobbying for change. Whitchurch Town Council subscribes to HALC and NALC.

Cllr. McGarvey reported that, following clarification on the ISA (Independent Safeguarding Association), which was created as part of Governments Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) to help prevent unsuitable people working with children and vulnerable adults); discussion took place as to whether Parish and Town Councils, or their employees should be CRB checked. Town Councillors agreed that the Clerk should obtain further information. **CB**

Some of the smaller independent bus companies are experiencing financial problems. Most of the passengers use bus passes or travel tokens, and they are not attracting enough fare paying customers. B.D.B.C. is considered slow in recompensing the companies. Some taxi services are refusing to take tokens for the same reasons.

11. Parish Hall Management Committee:

Cllr. D. Titcomb reported that the meeting had been postponed, and that there were issues with the sale of the Hall, which the Vicar is considering putting up for auction. A lot of work is being done on the Hall, and the Youth Club has cleared out a lot of rubbish.

12. Whitchurch Association and TCIM Steering Committee Report:

Cllr. B. Jackman reported that Audio Visual equipment will be installed in the Gill Nethercott Community Centre next week.

The final meeting of the TCIP Steering Committee set up to administer the SEEDA Grant Money will be on 11th March 2010. The remainder of the money will be transferred to the W. A. to administer for projects already confirmed, but not yet completed. Cllr. Jackman informed Council that all the projects were going well.

13. Primary School Governor's Report:

No Report.

14. Millennium Meadow Representative's Report:

A meeting is due next week.

A Concert to raise funds for a Tryst Seat on the Millennium Meadow in Memory of Cllr. Alison Wall, Cllr. Gill Nethercott, and Anna Nason raised £500. Three Golden Elder trees have been planted in the Millennium Meadow.

Councillors were impressed with the recent improvements to the Meadow, and the wildlife that it attracts. Cllr. B. Jackman proposed that a letter of thanks be sent to the committee stating what a fantastic job they have done in creating a facility enjoyed by all. Seconded: Cllr. D. Titcomb. All in agreement. **CB**

15. Resources and Policy:

(i) Payment of Accounts:

Feb		£
9	Land Registry (Weymouth)	40.00
2	Mr. A. V. Catt – Street cleaning/Footpaths	80.00
2	Viking Direct	235.88
9	Thornpark Ltd – New Computer	600.42
15	Barry Jackman - refund to pay Mole Catcher – Cemetery	60.00
15	Mr. M. Stead – refund for Grit (used in icy weather) Mayors Allowance	62.98
15	Mr. A. V. Catt – Ground maintenance – Recreation grounds & Cemetery	80.00
25	Salaries & Wages February 2009	2,820.00
25	H.C.C. L.G.P.S.	614.79
25	Barry Jackman – refund of cost of Memorial Garden Fencing	63.94
22	Petty cash/postage	50.00

Cllr. V. Bradbury proposed acceptance of the payment of accounts. Seconded: Cllr. J. Clark. All in agreement.

(ii) Website:

Cllr. V. Bradbury, Cllr. Mrs. J. Day, Cllr. D. Titcomb and Cllr. P. McGarvey met with Andrew Reeves-Hall and John Buckley, who have been set the challenge of setting up a Town Council Website before Cllr. Bradbury's year as Mayor is completed. Councillors will have access to the Website to check information etc before the site goes live.

(iii) Dates for Future Meetings:

The Annual Community Awards and Mayor's Reception will be combined and held on Tuesday 30th March 2010 and the ATA on Tuesday 27th April 2010. Both these events will be held in the Gill Nethercott Community Centre at 7.30 p.m.

Due to the Easter Bank Holiday, the April Full Council Meeting will be held on Monday 12th April 2010, where urgent planning applications will also be considered.

The Leisure and Environment Committee Meeting will be held on the 19th April 2010, and a Development Committee Meeting will be held on 26th April 2010 followed by a Resources and Policy Meeting starting at approximately 8.15 p.m. (to be confirmed).

- (iv) Confirm the Statement of Objectives, Committee Terms of Reference, H & S Policy, and Risk Assessments:

Councillors considered the Statement of Objectives. Under L&E, Footpaths, Item E7, Councillors requested an additional bullet point, which requires Landowners to be held responsible for clearing footpaths on their land. "Identify actions needed and notify Landowners". Proposed: Cllr. V. Bradbury. Seconded: Cllr. D. Titcomb. All in agreement.

Cllr. V. Bradbury proposed acceptance of the Committee Terms of Reference, with the one addition. Seconded: Cllr. B. Jackman. All agreed.

Cllr. H. James proposed acceptance of the Health and Safety Policy. Seconded: Cllr. J. Clark. All in agreement.

Councillors agreed that the risks of working with children should be investigated. Cllr. B. Jackman proposed acceptance of the Risk Assessment. Seconded: Cllr. J. Clark. All in agreement.

- (v) Correspondence:

- (a) Whitchurch Festival 2010 Fundraising Sub Committee – request for a financial contribution, and list of planned events for 2010. Councillors were concerned that any donation should be used exclusively for the public events and not for any associated private initiatives. Cllr. H. James proposed that a donation of £100 be made to the Festival Committee, with the proviso above. Seconded: Cllr. V. Bradbury. All agreed. Town Council is prepared to consider further requests, but only if the money was not available from any other source.
- (b) Information about United Savings and Loans. – Information to be sent to all Councillors for discussion at Resources and Policy Committee meeting.
- (c) Thank you card from Bobby, (one of the Cashiers at the HSBC Bank), for the bouquet of flowers presented to her and Alison when the Bank closed.

16. Community Projects, London 2012:

Cllr. J. Clark reported on the launch of the Borough Council's 'Give Gold Rings' Initiative, at the Gill Nethercott Community Centre, which encourages communities to come together to mark London 2012. Limited Grant Funding will be available for the various projects. Councillors agreed that a Committee should be set up to take the Borough initiative forward. A letter has been received from Whitchurch Arts. Graham Burgess has suggested an initial meeting of different organisations in the Town and would be happy to arrange a meeting for those interested. Cllr. D. Titcomb suggested that the Town could organise a race that could be held annually "The Whitchurch Golden Mile". Cllr. D. Titcomb and Cllr. J. Clark would be interested in joining a Committee.

17. Town Hall:

Cllr. B. Jackman reported that useful discussion took place at the last meeting, and that feedback from Councillors was most useful in determining the way forward.

18. General Correspondence:

None.

Meeting closed 9.10 p.m.
PAC/CMB